MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- The Israeli Air Force attacked and destroyed Syrian SAM-8 batteries in the Al-Biqa' Valley on 24 July and also raided "terrorist" targets in the Beirut area on 23, 24 and 25 July, according to announcements by the IDF spokesman reported by IDF radio. However, after the destruction of their SAM-8 batteries near Barr Ilyas, the Syrians shot down an Israeli Phantom with a SAM-6 fired from within Syria, Jerusalem television reported. While noting Israel's "sigh of relief" over the air force's success in knocking out without losses the hitherto unknown SAM-8's, which may have been operated by Soviet personnel, the television said Israel takes a very grave view of the downing of an Israeli plane by a missile fired from inside Syria.

A Syrian military spokesman announced on 24 July that if Israel continues to violate the cease-fire, Syria will reply with "unexpected blows and all kinds of weapons, inflicting heavier losses than the Israelis expect," Damascus radio reported. At the appropriate place and time, Syria may employ "weapons it has not yet used, some of which may be unknown to the Israelis," a Syrian staff officer announced in a statement reported by the radio.

Responding to the Syrian warnings, senior IDF officers said that if the Syrians act on their threat to cause heavy Israeli losses, Israel's counterstrike will be several times sharper and more painful, MA'ARIV reported. If the Syrians use Scud surface-to-surface missiles against civilian population centers, the IDF will react vigorously against Syrian centers near the border, including Damascus. Noting a Damascus radio commentary's assertion that Syria will not protect the Israeli invaders from the Palestinian Revolution in southern Lebanon, MA'ARIV said the Syrians appear to have rejected demands to stop the "terrorists" initiating actions against the IDF from Syrian-controlled territory. Meanwhile, Israeli defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel has no intention of fighting against Syria and has no plans to hit Damascus, IDF radio reported. After assessing recent Syrian announcements, Israeli Government circles do not think the Syrians are seeking to escalate the conflict, the radio also noted. Earlier, Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was wounded in the 22 July fighting in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

In Beirut, the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces military spokesman announced that Israeli bombing and shelling caused 56 casualties on 23 July and 51 on 24 July, according to statements carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio. Israeli artillery resumed its bombardment of Beirut early on 26 July. Joint forces statements carried by the radio also claimed that an Israeli plane was hit over Beirut on 24 July and that a PLO group operating behind Israeli lines attacked the IDF command headquarters in Sidon the previous day, inflicting heavy losses.

Asserting that a new phase has begun in the siege of Beirut, a senior Israeli "political element" said the IDF will henceforth provide full air cover for the soldiers besieging the city, Jerusalem television noted.

Meanwhile, the Israelis cut the electricity supply to west Beirut late on 24 July but restored it the next morning, according to Beirut radio reports.

'Arafat Document, PLO Stand -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed a document approving "all United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestinian question," AFP reported on 25 July. Informed sources in Beirut pointed out that the document made no specific mention of any UN resolution, AFP noted. Beirut radio said that by declaring his approval to all UN resolutions, 'Arafat has apparently implied his acceptance of resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist. However, the PLO's UN representative

revealed in New York that 'Arafat told him by telephone that the document does not include recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 but does recognize Resolution 181, passed in 1947, which provided for the establishment of two separate states in Palestine, one Arab and one Jewish, Monte Carlo radio reported. On the other hand, U.S. Congressman Paul McCloskey, who drafted the document, said 'Arafat confirmed his approval of 242 and 338 by writing their numbers on the reverse side of the paper, according to Beirut radio.

Israeli Government sources described 'Arafat's declaration as "nothing but a propaganda ploy" by the "terrorist" organization, according to Jerusalem television. In a telephone interview with Paris radio, Israel's ambassador to France reaffirmed his country's refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the signing of the document is a "major and important development" that calls for an Israeli response, MENA reported. Israel should recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, he said, and should immediately cease military operations in Lebanon.

The Voice of Palestine did not mention the document in its reportage of 'Arafat's meeting with the U.S. congressional delegation. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the matter should be referred to the Palestine National Council and that no other decision is of consequence, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Prior to 'Arafat's meeting with the U.S. congressmen, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the PLO had offered the maximum possible concessions; more would be treason or capitulation, the Voice of Palestine reported. Noting that the PLO is now being asked to recognize Israel, "which is slaughtering our people," Khalaf said this is not the time to discuss any compromises over the Palestinian cause. Nevertheless, 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan said in a MONDAY MORNING interview reported by Beirut radio that the PLO fighters are ready to leave Lebanon if this would lead to the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. Some sources have disclosed that if U.S. envoy Philip Habib achieves progress during his tour of Arab capitals, Palestinian withdrawals from Beirut could begin before 10 August and PLO, Syrian and Israeli withdrawals from all Lebanon could be completed in 8 months, the radio reported earlier.

In Cairo, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sudqi ad-Dajani held talks with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali on 24 July, according to MENA. Afterward, Ad-Dajani told newsmen the PLO does not object to the French-Egyptian plan that Ghali had outlined to him and appreciates its linking the Beirut problem with the overall issue. He affirmed that the PLO will leave Lebanon only if it can go to Palestine.

Israel on Negotiations -- Israel will not agree to interim arrangements in Lebanon and the IDF will not withdraw from the territories it has occupied until the PLO and Syrians leave Lebanon and a stable government is established, a senior Israeli "political element" said in a statement reported by Jerusalem television. Noting that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will receive U.S. envoy Habib in Israel on 26 July, the television also said Israel is prepared to grant Habib more time for political negotiations provided this time is indeed dedicated to diplomacy and is not used by the Syrians and the "terrorists" for a war of attribution. However, Israel does not regard IDF reactions to "terrorist" fire as harmful to the negotiations, IDF radio said.

Habib Mission -- U.S. envoy Habib was received in Damascus on 23 July by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who reiterated Syria's "declared principled stand," Damascus radio reported. After a stop in Saudi Arabia for talks with the Saudi king and foreign minister, Habib arrived in Cairo where he met first with Foreign Minister 'Ali and subsequently with President Husni Mubarak, according to MENA reports. The Egyptian side told Habib that a solution to the Lebanese crisis must be linked to a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem, 'Ali said in a statement reported by MENA. According to related MENA reports, a responsible Egyptian source denied that Habib's mission in Cairo was related to Egypt's accepting a number of Palestinians, and AL-AHRAM welcomed the U.S. decision to broaden the framework of the mission to include several Arab capitals and follow "marginal problems" to their basic roots.

Lebanese Stance, Presidency -- Denouncing the resumption of Israeli air raids as "pressure and blackmail" aimed at disrupting Philip Habib's task, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan warned that their continuation "will further complicate matters," Beirut radio reported. Lebanon will protest the renewed airstrikes in the UN Security Council, the radio noted. In earlier remarks reported by the radio, Al-Wazzan reiterated his call for the withdrawal of PLO fighters from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil announced his candidacy for the Lebanese Presidency, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A strong Lebanon requires the withdrawal of all armed aliens and understanding among the Lebanese bases on justice and equality, Al-Jumayyil asserted. He also said the Phalangist Lebanese forces will be ready to merge with the Lebanese Army if and when the latter becomes the sole legitimate force in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Libyan Message -- Col Muammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a message to Lebanese political leaders, carried by JANA, claimed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is a "war of vengeance" against the Lebanese people and not the Palestinians. He warned that what is being planned is the expulsion of the Lebanese from their country so they can be replaced by Jews, and in this way the Palestinian Resistance will no longer have any support. He said Lebanon should ask for international help.

PLO Threat, Accusation -- In the aftermath of the "betrayal" of the Palestinians by the Arab countries, the Middle East may soon be rocked by a new wave of terrorism "more serious and more to the heart of the Arab countries," the PLO's representative in India announced in statements reported by AFP. The PLO will also strike at the United States and Israel, he warned. Earlier, in a Monte Carlo radio interview, the director of the PLO's Paris office accused Israel of assassinating his assistant on 23 July. However, an Israeli Embassy official denied the charge, according to AFP. The Palestinian official was killed when a bomb exploded in his car, Paris radio noted.

Israel

Tehiya Joins Coalition -- The Tehiya Party has joined the government coalition under an agreement which stipulates, among other things, that a new committee will be formed on the legal status of West Bank Jewish inhabitants and that seven new settlements will be established there next year, Jerusalem radio reported.

Rabin on Lebanon -- Israel should decide how to get out of the Beirut "mess" and stop clinging to the idea that it is possible to impose a new order in Lebanon, MK Yitzhaq Rabin said in an interview with Jerusalem television. He said the IDF's achievements do not make far-reaching political objectives possible, and the most important issue now is to remove the "terrorists" from Beirut to Tripoli or other areas.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation -- An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio reported that an offensive was launched against Iraqi positions near Basra on 23-24 July, smashing Iraqi defensive lines and killing or wounding 700 enemy soldiers. Iraqi Armed Forces communiques carried by Baghdad radio claimed the attack failed completely and 3,654 Iranians were killed. Despite Iraq's claims that it has withdrawn its forces from Iran, IRNA said the Iraqis are still positioned in Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces.

Khomeyni Warning -- Addressing officials from Khorasan Province in a speech carried by Tehran radio on 25 July, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned countries which assist Iraq that they will be considered "traitors to Islam" and will be dealt with according to the "orders of Islam." He said however that it is not too late for countries in the region to realize their error and stop being "slaves" of the United States or the USSR. Khomeyni asserted that Iran is the most powerful country in the region but it has no intention of fighting any of its neighbors. Iran has no right to any other country and will not interfere with any other country unless it is in self-defense. He said it is unfortunate that the Gulf countries have material power in oil, but lack spiritual power.

Algerian Role -- Reliable sources reported that Algeria is willing to be the "honest broker" in efforts to end the war, AFP said. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that the Iranian president received a message from his Algerian counterpart.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince's Visit to Iraq, Syria -- Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz visited Iraq and Syria over the weekend, according to INA and Damascus radio. INA said the prince's talks with President Saddam Husayn focused on the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon and ways to strengthen Saudi-Iraqi relations. The talks with Syrian President al-Asad covered Lebanon and the Middle East, according to Damascus radio. Prince 'Abdallah denied that the aim of his visits was to mediate between Iraq and Syria, SPA noted.

Fahd 'Id al-Fitr Speech -- The Islamic nation needs a military force to strike terror in the hearts of its enemies and protect its friends, King Fahd said in a 23 July speech transmitted by SPA to mark the holiday 'Id al-Fitr. Expressing hope that inter-Arab quarrels will disappear and that Egypt will soon rejoin its Arab brothers, Fahd said Israel would never have "gone on the rampage" in Lebanon if the Islamic nation had been united. He appealed to Iran and Iraq to end their war and resolve their differences. Regarding Saudi Arabia's internal affairs, the king said the codification of Saudi constitutional principles is a priority issue, as is the strengthening of the Saudi Armed Forces. The king called on young men not to imitate the "lost youth" of the West and to avoid extremism.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SPOKESMAN ON RUMORED ARMS PURCHASES FROM U.S.

BK241456 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] In response to queries from press correspondents on 24 July, the official spokesman said: You will recall that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has clearly said that she is not going to the U.S.A. with a shopping list. This applies in particular to any military supplies or items of defence interest.

The spokesman said that we have seen certain reports in newspapers that India is negotiating with the U.S.A. for the acquisition and manufacture in India of F-5 aircraft. There is no basis of such reports.

There are also newspaper reports about the U.S. offer to supply C-130 planes. The spokesman said that these are transport planes and we have taken on record the U.S. offer to supply C-130.

PATRIOT CRITICIZES U.S. STAND ON LOS TREATY

BK231343 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 82 p 2

["Comment" column: "Law of Sea"]

[Text] The United States has indicated that it would not sign the Law of the Sea treaty which was hammered out after nearly a decade of negotiations by all the nations of the world. It is not surprising given the sudden back-flip executed by the Reagan administration over the draft treaty after several successive U.S. Governments had actively participated in its drafting. President Reagan, the moment he took over office, began to seek clauses which would have given the United States pre-eminence in the exploitation of marine resources and in certain aspects of navigation and use of coastal waters.

In April, the United States was the only Western industrialised nation to vote against the draft treaty while there were 17 abstentions. The United States has sought to sabotage the achievements of the Law of the Sea Conference on the ground that it introduces an element of 'world government'. In actual fact all that it is seeking is to ensure that its multinational corporations will be able to exploit marine resources unfettered by any international law and governed only by the limitations of technology. This would have created a situation in which the world economy would have been sacrificed to the whims and fancies of U.S. technology, especially in exploitation of mineral resources, their marketing and pricing.

The developing countries have made many concessions to the United States and developed nations' interests but they finally put their foot down when it was seen that the United States was merely trying to consolidate its own position to the detriment of the developing world. The treaty was endorsed by overwhelming majority. The law will come into force if 60 nations sign it when it is opened for ratification in December. Judging from the mood of the world the law will eventually come into force and it will open an era of open confrontation between U.S. interests and that of the rest of the world.

REDDY MAKES FAREWELL ADDRESS TO NATION

BK250714 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] The outgoing president, Sanjiva Reddy, has called for a spirit of reconciliation and cooperative endeavor so that national energy is harnessed for the greater welfare of the people. In a farewell message telecast over television a short while ago, he spoke of the country's many achievements since independence. He said a nation that has achieved so much in such a short span gives promise of its ability to bring about a better life for the people. Mr Sanjiva Reddy noted that while the lamp of democracy has been extinguished in some countries around us, we in India had been following the democratic system. The democratic form of the government, he said, is ruled by reason, by persuasion. We should always try to arrive at as much consensus as possible.

Sanjiva Reddy said the voice of the minority and of the opposition should be given all possible consideration. The opposition on its part has to be reasonable and constructive in its approach. The outgoing president said whichever party may be in power, there must be an opposition that can expose the mistakes and misdeeds of the ruling party. He regretted that the united opposition has not evolved.

Sanjiva Reddy said there are certain basic values that go to build a sound democratic system. He felt that we can have little cause for satisfaction if we examine how far our conduct of public affairs is inspired by these (?polities).

Turning to the economic scene, he said disparities have accentuated and for the majority of our people there has been no marked improvement in living standards. The cost of living has been relentessly going up.

Looking back at his public life, spanning more than 50 years, Sanjiva Reddy said that when he lays down office tomorrow, he will go back to his hometown a contended man. He has no desire to seek any office, but would be glad to offer his services to the country in the event of any emergency.

ZAIL SINGH TAKES OATH OF OFFICE; MAKES SPEECH

BK250803 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Zail Singh has been sworn in as the seventh president of India. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of India Y.A. Chandrachud. The impresssive ceremony took place in the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. The vice president, the prime minister and her Cabinet colleagues, the Lok Sabha speaker, members of Parliament, heads of diplomatic missions, military and civil officials and other dignitaries were present. As Zail Singh and the outgoing president, Sanjiva Reddy, exchanged seats, 21 guns boomed in salute.

In his address to the nation after assuming office, Zail Singh called for greater discipline in all walks of life to safeguard our cherished political and social system. We must also strive to achieve unity of minds and hearts among people of different states, religion, castes and people speaking different languages. The president said that the nation has gained momentum, particularly in the last 2 and 1/2 years. But now there is need to accelerate and consolidate the gains. He called upon the people to channelize their energies into constructive work. Zail Singh cautioned the nation that communal frenzy, caste distinctions, political apathy, fissiparous tendencies and violence can only contribute to destroy the great legacy left behind by our statesmen, leaders and saints.

Referring to the international situation, Zail Singh deplored the stockpiling of nuclear arsenal by some countries. He said in such a war there will be no victor or vanquished, but total destruction. He reaffirmed India's irrevocable commitment to peace and to the settlement of all disputes through negotiations. The president said around us we see strikes, violence, terrorism and wanton destruction of property and innocent lives. He said if the human race is to survive it must create more rational and human conditions free from fear, distrust and want.

Seeking people's cooperation, President Zail Singh said he will discharge his duties enjoined on him by the Constitution in all humility, without fear and favor.

Immediately after his address, President Zail Singh inspected an interservices guard of honor and took the salute. As he arrived at the saluting base in a horse-driven coach in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Vice President Hidayatullah and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi received him.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON NO-WAR PACT, ISRAEL

GF241241 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, federal information and broadcasting minister, said in Karachi yesterday that Pakistan Government's efforts for a no-war pact with India were based on its desire to preserve its national interest through diplomatic efforts. He was addressing a meeting of the Pakistan estehkam council workers in PECHS [expansion unknown].

The minister took exception to a statement of a leader of a defunct political party who had criticised the government's efforts to conclude a no-war pact with India and had termed it a written apology ('toba nama') to Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Raja Zafarul Haq said that even a section of Indian population was realising the importance of friendly relations with Pakistan due to the changed geo-political situation in the region. The statement of the leader of the defunct political party was based on sheer ignorance of the developments around Pakistan on a global level, he added.

The minister said that many Indians today also realised that the potential threat which Pakistan was facing today could also become a threat to India tomorrow. The Indian leadership would have unhesitatingly signed the proposed no-war pact with Pakistan had it been entirely in its favour, he added.

The minister said that even super-powers like the United States and the Soviet Union states could not risk a war. Their own efforts were always directed towards winning more and more friends in the neighbouring areas of tension.

Pakistan's efforts to conclude a no-war pact with India should also be viewed in the background of the threat to Pakistan's national independence and territorial integrity and its desire to forge friendly relations with the neighbouring countries in order to further consolidate the integrity of the country, he added.

Raja Zafarul Haq said Pakistan had never aggressed against any country in the past, nor did it intend to do so in future, though it was itself a victim of aggressions thrice. Like any other country in the world, Pakistan, too, had every right to acquire arms to preserve its own national independence and territorial integrity, he added.

Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq cautioned the Muslim world against the emerging of a new imperialist power in the Middle East which was posing a potential threat to the entire Muslim world.

He said the new Jewish imperialism, which had the full backing of both the super-powers, had come into being with the exclusive objective of destroying the Muslim forces and its interests. He said nearly 50,000 highly educated brains were migrating every year from the Soviet Union to Israel. Besides, the United States was supplying the most sophisticated weapons to Israel.

Raja Zafarul Haq regretted that there was no strategy or planning to face the Jewish imperialism, which was casting its evil eyes on the Muslim lands.

The minister said that Isarel made no secret of its evil designs against the nuclear projects of Pakistan. Some hostile countries in the region also wished Israel could embark on its nefarious plan to destroy Pakistan's nuclear projects in surprise raids.

He said only internal peace could bring strength and solidarity to the count.y as a whole. "If we have to preserve the national independence and territorial integrity, we should also maintain complete peace within the country," he added.

NEPAL

AFP: KING BIRENDRA POSTPONES VISIT TO PRC

BK251423 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Katmandu, July 25 (AFP) -- King Birendra of Nepal and Queen Aiswarya have postponed a weeklong visit to China because of the death of the queen's father, Lieutenant General Kendra Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, a palace statement said today.

Lt Gen Rana died of a heart attack here yesterday.

It was announced that rather than leaving today as planned the royal couple would depart on Tuesday for a trip to Gansu Province and Sigaze and Gyangze in Tibet.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY AIR PIRACY CONVENTIONS

BK211202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The government will seek to ratify a number of international conventions to which it is already a party when Parliament meets today. All these relate to offenses against aircraft. The new legislation will have a bearing on the case in which a Sri Lankan -- Sepala Ekanayake -- hijacked an Alitalia plane on a flight from New Delhi to Bangkok on June 30.

The present law makes hijacking a criminal offense if it is committed on the ground. The new law will make it a criminal offense if the hijacking is done while an aircraft is airborne as well. It will also be retroactive; the bill was therefore referred to the Supreme Court by the speaker. The court's decision will be conveyed to the house today.

The prime minister, who will introduce the bill, will also move for a suspension of standing orders to enable the bill's disposal on the same day, as government considers this an urgent business.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE AID -- Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki has announced that his country will provide assistance totalling 16 billion yen in addition to the grant aid already paid in 1982. He made this announcement when the finance minister met Suzuki at the prime minister's residence in Tokyo on 7 July. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Jul 82 BK]

FURTHER JAPANESE AID -- Colombo, June 29 (AFP) -- The Japanese Government yesterday donated a little over 1.5 million tins of canned fish as relief assistance for victims here of drought and floods in recent months. The value of the Japanese aid handed over by its diplomatic mission's charge d'affaires, Y. Motomura, is 250 million yen (one million dollars). The consignment is part of a 650 million yen grant extended by Japan on humanitarian grounds, officials here said. Machinery for drilling wells for drinking water and pumpts for irrigation will also be supplied shortly, informed sources said. The canned fish was originally meant for drought victims in the northern part of the country. But at the urgent request of the Sri Lanka Government it was decided to divert part of the consignment as relief for last month's flood victims in the south, the DAILY NEWS said today. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 29 Jun 82 BK]

KHOMEYNI: MOVE INTO IRAQ DEFENSIVE OPERATION

LD251352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on 25 July at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran to officials from Khorasan Province -- recorded, duration 35 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our guests today are very dear to us for they come from a place which attracts the hearts of God's angels. Actually, the holy shrine is the center of Iran. We do hope that God may bless us and enable us to serve it.

We are currently facing some problems of which you are aware. These problems are not kept secret; they are in the open. The nation is of the government and the government is of the people. The government is the servant of the nation and the nation is the supporter of the government. As long as this situation continues, no one has to fear for the Islamic Republic.

You are aware that today we are (?politically) and [word indistinct] isolated. Nearly the entire East and West are either our direct or indirect opponents. If there exist governments which are either neutral or, possibly, agree with us, their number is very limited. The large powers oppose Islam; not the sort of Islam which could be confined to prayers and the mosque. They oppose the Islam which, in the early Islamic period, used to meet all the needs of nations. They oppose the Islam which used to take a direct interest in the social and political affairs of nations.

Recently, when both the West and East began to have access to Islamic governments, the idea that Islam is concerned with personal matters, that it should deal with God and His subjects and that it must be separate from politics, reached its zenith. The idea was that Muslims should not get involved in politics, that clergymen should not get involved in politics, that they must be confined within mosques and devote all their time to praying. Today, when governments in the West and East, large powers in the East and West have taken a stand against Islam, this has reached its zenith. Thank God, the Iranian nation is an exception today; it is an exceptional nation without any parallel.

Today you cannot find a single country whose slogans evolve around: "Neither West nor East." They either officially belong to the East or to the West, or they are discreetly dependent on them. As for the nonalignod countries, you should not believe that they are nonaligned. Even if there are some, they are extremely rare. Today, we are facing the East and West; the Eastern bloc and Western bloc and all the governments throughout the world wielding power. We -- that is, the nation -- stood up, as the nation demonstrated by finding its own path from the very beginning, to the bullies without possessing any weapon other than the weapon of faith. The nation then toppled a regime which, God forbid, if it had remained in power for a few more years would have made Islam disappear. The nation also cut off the hands of the superpowers from its own resources.

Unfortunately, at a time when all Islamic governments should rally around this point and move toward Islam -- an Islam which has presented them with the gift of independence -- they nevertheless ignore the issues. Their carnal desires prevent them from doing what they should. Today, nearly all the propaganda of the media in both the East and West is aimed at the Islamic Republic; they either write or broadcast against it. The issue is quite clear. What the Islamic Republic wants is to safeguard its independence and remove the hands of others from its country -- the hands of world devourers and those depending on them. The Islamic Republic wishes to see all Islamic countries, all the governments running and, as it were, ruling Islamic countries to wake up, as the Islamic Republic did, from deep sleep.

Notice this republic which was established to materialize Islam, to implement the objectives of an Islamic nation sacrificing everything it possesses for the sake of Islam, while facing filthy minigroups; notice how it has become the object of aggression by certain governments like the Iraqi Government -- that is, the usurping Iraqi Government, the oppressive Iraqi Government, a government hated by the Iraqi nation, a government putting the people in their place by means of the bayonet.

Notice, under the pretext that you, Iranian nation, are Magi, that you are Parsi -- is this an offense? That corrupt regime keeps referring to Al-Qadisiyah [the famous Arab-Persian war in the early Islamic era]. We and our country have never, and will never, intend to invade another country. However, having been invaded, the question of defense came up; something, both from the religious and rational points of view, that is necessary. What we are doing is defending ourselves. Even today we are defending ourselves. The mercenary Iraqi troops were inside Iran, controlling sensitive areas in our country. They committed many crimes which should be recorded in history. During this period, all the countries claiming to be supporting Islam, the human rights bodies and the region did not utter a word. Even when they uttered something, their utterances were directed against Iran.

Today, when we have entered Iraq in order to defend our country, in order to defend our oppressed nation -- all because Abadan, Ahvaz and other towns are daily brought under their shelling, long-range artillery fire and rockets and we intend to take steps to prevent them from such attacks -- now all the press and radios are condemning us, shouting that this has posed a threat to the region. They are provoking the region's countries.

As a responsible individual -- although I have no responsibility for I am only a theological student -- I have repeatedly warned the region's governments that we have no intention of fighting them. We are not the type who, upon becoming powerful, would bully or wish to interfere in the internal affairs of another country by resorting to force. While being the most powerful government in the region -- being a country which, blessed by Islam, possesses a power which prevents even the big powers from attacking it -- we wish to remain brothers with all Islamic countries, especially those in the region and the Gulf. We wish to join hands with all of them.

God Almighty has given so much potential to these Islamic countries, both spiritually and materially, that if these governments realize this fact and take notice of these issues, they could become a power against which any other power would seem ineffectual. Your country, countries of the Gulf region and other countries have material power, they have oil. If the flow of oil stopped for 10 days they would all yield. In spite of all the power they have, the power available to them, unfortunately, they do not have the power of faith. If we had faith instead of oil, we would not need anything else. Our nation had faith and the Almighty God blessed us and made us aware of the plots against us. If they had been given the opportunity they would have corrupted all our youths. God took pity on us and brought about a change in the young people. Formerly, they lived in centers of corruption. Today, the young people are active in centers of activity, war and other operations which are beneficial for the country.

The Guards Corps and the personnel of the gendarmerie, the armed forces, the guards -- all combatants -- are all so full of faith that they are standing in front of everything and are steadfast.

How many times should we tell the countries of the region, saying: We will not harm you, you should be fraternal toward us and we should all get together and fight superpowers and liberate our countries? You countries of the region should not imagine that Germany, Britain -- and the United States leading them all -- are guarding your interests. Does Russia protect your interests? No, they all guard their own interests. They want to enslave you and exploit you. The day they find out that they cannot use you anymore, they will discard you and stop cooperating with you.

Today the Iranian nation has staged a revolution and you can see the extent of progress it has made. The Iranian nation has managed to stop all powers from interfering in its country. You join forces against all the powers which intend to destroy us and colonialize us. We must liberate ourselves from their claws.

How long are you going to remain the slaves of America and slaves to American advisers? You saw how the Iranian nation threw out all the American advisers. Now Iran is managing all its affairs by itself. If it is given the opportunity, it will become such a power that no one would dare interfere in its affairs. This nation has succeeded in throwing out all profiteers and cannibals and will go on doing so, God willing.

If we have entered Iraq, it has not been to occupy Iraq or Basra. Faith is our land, not Basra or Sham. Our homeland is Islam; we obey the orders of Islam. Islam does not allow us to dominate another Muslim country and we shall never do so, or even think of it. What pretext do you have to claim that Iran is a threat to you? Iran is a threat to America; Iran is a threat to Russia, not to you. Iran is a blessing to you.

You should extend the hand of fraternity to Iran and then you would know the joys of brotherhood. Then you would realize that independence is a lot better than the wealth you expect to get from foreigners. Why do you oppose Iran?

Thank God, some of the countries of the region have come to their senses and have turned from the path they were following. I hope that all the countries and governments of the region will come to their senses and rest assured that a powerful Islamic Iran is better for them than America or Russia. They only have their own interests in mind whereas Islam has in mind the interests of all Islamic countries, all Muslims and all human beings. We do not have eyes on any country and we do not have any right to any other country. God Almighty has not allowed us to interfere in any country unless it is to defend ourselves. Today we are defending ourselves against the corrupt Government of Iraq. Of course, our nation should realize that our war has not yet finished. This conspiracy which diverted our attention to Lebanon in order to allow Iraq to deal us a blow was discovered, God Almighty willing. Our decision is that first Iran should be liberated from the hands of these corrupt and usurping people and then, God willing, we will go to Jerusalem.

All Islamic countries should realize that Iran does not in any way have eyes on those countries. Iran has everything its population needs. Iran is not a rebellious country that wants to conquer all. Iran has risen for God and will continue to act for God.

Other than defending itself, Iran would not enter into [word indistinct] war with any country. But I should caution some of these countries which still assist the enemy of Islam, I would like to caution them to take care and not create problems for themselves in the future. These countries helping Saddam today are traitors against Islam and are offenders in the eyes of Islam. If they had the excuse up to now that they were frightened of Iraq, that excuse is no longer valid. Iraq is unable to protect its own government today. Let alone launch an aggression against these countries. This excuse is now superfluous. If we find there are countries giving assistance, military and material assistance to the Iraqi Government, we will recognize them as offenders and, God willing, if they do not change their way we will announce them as offenders and deal with them according to the orders of Islam. I advise them that it is not too late, they can change their ways and at least stop helping this guilty party, and the even guiltier party -- America.

My God rid all Islamic countries from these corrupt, these oppressors and world devourers. May God awaken Islamic governments to act according to their Islamic duties and live alongside each other as brother countries, and cut the hand of criminals from their countries. My God make us one of the servants of Islam. I hope that your prayers, you who have come from the shrine of Imam Reza and will, God willing, return there in good health, will enable me to go on a pilgrimage to the shrine of that imam. Peace be upon you all.

MUSAVI ON NORTH AFRICA VISIT, CABINET CHANGES

LD241336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and reported to him in great detail about the country's current situation and the outcome of his visit abroad. The prime minister spoke to a Central News Unit reporter afterward on his meeting and on the Cabinet reshuffle.

[Question] Prime Minister, you were received today by the leader of the revolution and founder of Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni. Could you please tell us what issues were raised during the meeting?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I reported to the imam on my visit to [word indistinct] and its outcome. I told him that we explained the Islamic Republic's stances during the visit; I also told him that we further explained the conditions under which Iran is fighting Iraq in this imposed war. [passage indistinct]

We were also informed [during the visit] of the measures taken by our Algerian and Libyan brothers and, in turn, stated our positions. [Words indistinct] the imam was informed that the Algerian Government is very eager to become involved in establishing peace and continuing the steps already taken by martyr Ben Yahia. We welcomed that idea. However it was (?decided) that the Algerian Government should attempt to realize our conditions, which have already been announced and which are quite specific. This we shall welcome. Our conditions are quite clear and we have stated them on a number of occasions. This is a summary of the issues raised with the imam.

[Question] When is the Cabinet reshuffle going to take place and who will be affected?

[Answer] Some three or four ministries will be affected. Considering the rumors about this, I would like to point out that these changes are mainly due to the fact that some of our brothers wish to continue their efforts in other areas, and there is the question of another brother who was unwell and physically unable to do his job. Consequently, it was decided to make some changes.

Among the ministries to be affected is the Ministry of Mines and Metals. I wish to take the opportunity now to commend Mr Musaviyan's [minister of mines and metals] efforts. His efforts resulted in the reactivation of Sarcheshmeh [copper] mine; he also brought about some changes in the Esfahan steelworks. Obviously, his departure and transfer to another post, which he considers more suitable, means [words indistinct]. [passage on Ministry of Health indistinct]

Concerning the Ministry of Guidance, I must say that to date we have had no specific propaganda activity in this ministry; particularly in the field of foreign propaganda, our efforts were nil. Ma'adikhah gave the ministry some dynamic status, something which must be pursued in the future because these efforts will be vital for the stability and presence of our revolution in the world, a point which cannot be ignored.

I wish to express my gratitude to all my brothers at this point, although this gratitude is insignificant, for it is the nation that should commend them.

Apart from these three ministries, I believe that a new ministry, the Ministry of Corps, is to be introduced. This encapsulates the changes which are to take place. The point however is that our journalist brothers -- considering that I myself used to be one -- have given these changes great prominence out of sheer curiosity, adding various trimmings to them. The truth is as I have stated. The new ministers, I believe, will be announced after the Majlis recess.

KHAMENE'I RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BENDJEDID

GF251820 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The message was delivered by Algerian Ambassador to Iran Abdelkarim Ghraieb during his meeting with Khamene'i today.

ARDABILI SCORES SADDAM HUSAYN'S STATEMENTS ON WAR

LD231246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Today the Muslim and heroic people of our country, as in previous weeks, took part in religious-political Friday prayers throughout the country and demonstrated their unity and solidarity. The God-seeking and combative people of Tehran, chanting slogans against imperialism and Zionism and praying for the final victory of the fighters of Islam, took part in Friday prayers held at the meeting place of the lovers of God, Tehran University, under the imamate of the ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

In his first sermon, the ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran said that we should carefully safeguard the position we enjoy today. We are in need of genuine forces and we have nothing to do with imported ideologies. We do not care for what the world, in view of its own interests, thinks about us.

Referring to some of the dependent parties and groups who in appearance pretended to be defenders of the Islamic Republic, he said: We should be careful and vigilant. You should take care that you are not infiltrated by those who profess faith but who do not have good intentions and act in a hypocritical way, those who try to portray themselves as being to some extent in favor of this path [of the Islamic regime] but who deliver a blow at critical times. The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran added: However, in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we will allow those who are not waging war and who do not engage in conspiracies, even though their intentions are known, to live in the Islamic society.

In the second Friday sermon, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili started his sermon with some remarks about the war which is being waged on two separate fronts although it has only one aim. He said: In south Lebanon the Zionists kill Muslim women and children, and in south Iran the 'Aflaqite Saddam is killing our women and children. In Lebanon the Zionists drop bombs and destruction everywhere. Here Saddam is doing the same by bombing our cities. These crimes are being committed simultaneously.

The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran continued: Some time ago Saddam regarded himself as the hero of Al-Qadisiyah and attacked our Islamic homeland and even prided himself in doing so. Now he says: We are sitting in a corner and it is Iraq which has invaded our territory. However, if Saddam knew that violating international borders was contrary to international law, why did he commit what he liked during 22 months of aggression against our territory? He destroyed our towns and martyred the innocent people of our country. However, now that the forces of Islam have entered Iraqi territory all those who are dependent upon the superpowers have raised their voices to shout that the security of the region is threatened, as though Iran does not desire security.

He added: It is American security which has been disturbed. It is the security of the cartels of the superpowers which has been disturbed; in the same way that the United States saw its own interests being endangered in Vietnam and created a bloodbath. These stupid people do not know that if the security of the Persian Gulf was disturbed by Iran the leaders of the countries of the region would have known this.

Saddam says to our fighters: What are you doing inside Iraqi territory; we are Muslims; we follow the Koran; we are comfortable and are living in peace. Why does Iran wish to conquer other countries and expand its borders?

In answer, we say: Saddam, why are you saying this after having occupied our territory for almost 22 months and after having committed so many crimes? What were you doing in Iran those 22 months? Is it that Saddam has received an order from his master telling him that this side of the border fighting is allowed but not at the other side?

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: With one voice we shout: Saddam, these military personnel and the guards are fighting in the battlefields for the sake of God. We believe the same about those who take part in the prayers whose weapons are in their homes. We regard it as our right to fight in the path of God, in the battle between Islam and blasphemy. To us there is no difference between Basra and Khorramshahr. Our aim is not something which you can understand and appreciate.

Depart and remove your evil from the Muslim people or Iraq. If the war is not over then you can say that they [the Iranians] are craving for territory.

We announce that if the Iraqi people arrest Saddam we will receive the Muslim Iraqi nation with open arms and will be at their side. We are not saying that we would certainly destroy Saddam. What we say is that it is up to the Iraqi nation to destroy this Ba'thist-Zionist regime which has been imposed in the Iraqi people.

Finally, the ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran emphasized the need for decisiveness in continuing the war and eschewing any slackening.

At the end he read a message in Arabic addressed to Muslim Arab brothers.

IRAQIS STILL POSITIONED ON IRANIAN TERRITORY

LD252142 Tehran IRNA in English 1957 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, July 25, IRNA -- Despite claims of having withdrawn their aggressor forces from western Iran, the Iraqi Ba'thists are still positioned inside Iran on the heights of Shovaldareh, Shakh Boznan, Tang-e Hovan, Tushabeh, Bishgan, Aqdagh, in the Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin regions of Bakhtaran Province, and on the heights of Zainal Kosh, the heights overlooking Naftshahr, Gomril, and the Meymak-Sumar region.

The Iraqis are also stationed on the Bahramabad heights and on the strategic hills No 343 and 363 of the Mehran region, in Ilam Province.

MATERIALS CONCERNING RAMADAN OPERATION

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD231722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in retaliation for the disgraceful defeat of mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba-thist-Zionist regime in the war with combatants of Islam, aggressive Iraqi planes violated the airspace of several western cities of the country, including Kermanshah, twice: last night and at dawn this morning.

The vigilance and timely fire of the air defense units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave the enemy planes no chance to carry out any operations in either case.

Joint Staff Communique 990

LD231720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Communique No 990 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combative units of Islam stationed in the west of the country, like their victorious and proud brothers in the southern operative regions, are attacking the mercenary enemy with determination. During the past 24 hours, fire continued to be exchanged on the western fronts and we held the upper hand.

In the Meymak and Mehran regions, the exchange of fire was more intense. In the Meymak area, a patrol of our combatants from the Ground Forces, Mobilization and Guards Corps opened fire on the aggressors and destroyed a machinegun, a mortar and 6 trenches, killing 15 Ba'thist mercenaries.

In Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin, the forces of Islam pounded enemy positions using artillery and mortar fire. Also, three supply depots of the Saddamist forces in the same regions were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

On the Marivan front, our artillery units fired on enemy positions and equipment, destroying a number of trenches and several enemy observation posts and silencing their artillery fire. On one of the western fronts of the country, several guerrilla groups made up of army and Guards Corps personnel carried out a coordinated operation, penetrating enemy positions inside Iraqi territory. While destroying several entrenchments and observation posts, they set fire to a vehicle carrying enemy soldiers. In these operations, the enemy suffered more than 60 dead or wounded.

In the Paveh area, artillery fire by the forces of Islam pounded enemy positions, reinforcements and a motor pool on the Toveyleh-Suskan road. The resulting fire and smoke could be seen for hours. Also in this region, the mortars of the enemy forces were silenced.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Communique 9

LD241158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Joint communique No 9 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. Fight them until there is no more sedition so that faith in God should prevail altogether and everywhere. [Koranic verse]

The zealous combatants of the army of Islam continue to wage battle on the front of right with complete superiority in order to crush the duped and aggressive forces of the Ba'thist, Zionist Iraqi regime. With steadfastness and seeking divine succour they are inflicting blows on the enemy while coordinating their continual operations in order to destroy and mop up the enemy.

Last night the victorious heroes of the army of Islam, the zealous brothers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the self-sacrificing guards and Mobilization fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, continued the triumphant Ramadan Operation and the vast mopping-up operations for the destruction of enemy forces on the night of the happy 'Id al-Fitr and dealt a heavy blow at the enemy's armored forces in the operational zone north and west of Iraq's Zayd post, and began another series of bold infiltration operations.

In these operations, which by the grace of Almighty God took place in the operational zone and on the axis of Shalamcheh-Basra, despite the enemy's stringent defense precautions aimed at preventing infiltration by Islam's forces, Islam's forces, chanting "God is great," succeeded in inflicting yet another blow at the forces of the Ba'thist, Zionist forces of Iraq.

The forces of Islam, beginning the operations at 2200 last night, crossed numerous defensive obstacles and vast minefields and succeeded in smashing into the enemy's first defensive lines. They crossed the numerous canals created by the enemy on this axis and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the infantry battalions of the 49th Brigade of Iraq's 11th Division, killing or wounding about 700 of the aggressive forces of the Ba'thist, Zionist Iraqi regime. In the course of these bold infiltration operations, Islam's combatants also destroyed 24 of the Saddamists' vehicles and armored personnel carriers.

In the hope of Islam's final victory over blasphemy and the salvation of Jerusalem from the claws of occupying Zionism.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Communique 992

LD241806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Communique No 992 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The results of the battles and sacrifices made by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours are hereby brought to the attention of the dear compatriots:

During the past 24 hours, fighting and sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the western fronts of the country. The intensity of fire in Salehabad and Meymak was more than on other fronts. At each front, the selfless pilots of the air force and the Airborne Division provided air cover and carried out logistical and transport missions, thus assisting and supporting the fighting units of Islam.

In the exchange of fire on the Naftshahr front, the heavy-artillery fire of the ground forces' combatants on the infantry positions, heavy-weapon emplacements and supply routes of the aggressive Ba'thist forces of Iraq destroyed some of their positions, killed a number of enemy personnel and disrupted or stopped their operational and supply deployment.

On the border fronts of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb, the combatants of Islam continued their mopping-up operations, consolidated their positions and inflicted damage and casualties on the forces of blasphemy.

The army of Islam's activities in the Piranshah region were noticeable and they succeeded in containing all the activities of the Saddamist forces by frequent harassment and patrol operations.

On the Marivan front, due to the powerful artillery fire of the ground forces on the Saddamists in Panjwin, (Daraga), Khanom-e Shaykhan and Biarreh, the movement of Iraqi forces was stopped and an enemy truck and several of their entrenchments were set on fire and destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were killed.

On the Paveh front, exchange of fire continued and our powerful combatants maintained the upper hand. The warriors of the gendarmerie positioned on the defensive fronts from Qasr-e Shirin to Mehran returned enemy fire and dealt considerable blows to the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

On the Abadan front, several entrenchments and one of the enemy ammunition depots were destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were killed.

During the past 24 hours, several planes belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries which intended to violate the airspace of some of our western and southern towns were forced to flee before they were able to commit any crimes because of the fire of our anti-aircraft defense units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ahvaz Air Raid Alert

GF241144 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0649 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: Please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear indicates that an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

Bushehr Air Raid Alert

GF241145 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0655 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: Please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear indicates that an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

Joint Staff Communique 993

LD251736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Communique No 993 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The brave combatants of Islam, dealing repeated blows at Saddam's shattered, feeble army, are turning the latest feeble enemy attempts into despondency.

During the past 24 hours, the enemy positions, fortifications, personnel and armored equipment on the battlefronts were brought under heavy-weapon fire by units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the western fronts, the exchange of fire was heaviest in the Meymak sector.

(?The Iranian forces) brought enemy mortar positions and supply roads under fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Ba'thist mercenaries. In the Mehran sector, an enemy combat group, supported by artillery fire, attempted to penetrate into the city of Mehran, but was forced to retreat after suffering losses and casualties, thanks to the resistance of the forces of Islam. In the Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin sectors, enemy armored and infantry movements were controlled by our forces. With their fire, our heroic units prevented enemy engineering operations, killing or injuring several Iraqi personnel. On all the western fronts, our forces are defending and strengthening their positions and clearing the routes of minefields.

During the past 24 hours, residential areas of Abadan were brought under sporadic enemy artillery fire, resulting in the destruction of a number of houses.

Yesterday the exchange of fire continued between our forces stationed on the banks of Arvand Rud and the enemy forces on the opposite banks of the river. Enemy activities were neutralized and enemy traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra road was prevented.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mines Neutralized

LD251816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, following the shameful flight of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces from Mehran and its recapture and the deployment of Islamic forces in the area, so far about 60,000 antipersonnel and antitank landmines of Russian and Italian make have been discovered by the Islamic fighters in (Ruzabad), [name indistinct], the Konjancham heights and Changuleh. All the mines have been neutralized.

Ilam Airspace Violations

LD251824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] According to IRNA, three planes of the aggressive Iraqi Army violated the airspace of Ilam at 2115 and 2130 last night, intending to bombard the residential parts of the city. Before performing any operation, however, thanks to the antiaircraft fire of the combatants stationed in the sector, they fled.

Guards Attack Iraqi Positions

LD252134 Tehran IRNA in English 1959 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Abadan, July 25, IRNA -- The Islamic revolutionary guards killed 15 Iraqi soldiers this morning in the Iraqi region of Saybah, across the Arvand River. They opened fire on enemy positions, destroying one 106-mm gun, one 60-mm mortar launcher and two observation posts as well. Also, in a fierce exchange of fire with Iraqi mortar launchers stationed near the Iraqi outpost of Mohammadi, also across the Arvand River, enemy fire was halted and one RPG-7 and five bunkers of the Iraqi aggressors were destroyed.

During the preceding 24 hours, the gendarmerie forces destroyed one observation post and two light- and heavy-weapon positions in Iraqi territory on the western bank of the Arvand River while killing a number of enemy soldiers. They also halted enemy vehicle traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra axis.

Abadan Shelled

LD252116 Tehran IRNA in English 2001 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Abadan, July 25, IRNA -- The southern city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, came under the Iraqi Ba'thist's long-range artillery fire today. In this brutal operation, two civilians were martyred, ten others were wounded, two residential units were smashed and another one was set on fire.

Moreover, the Iraqi jet fighters violated Abadan's airspace several times today and yesterday but were forced to turn back by the Islamic combatants' air defence. Simultaneously with these abortive attacks, the Iraqi helicopters appeared above the border line of Shalamcheh at 8:10, 9:15, 10:35, 12:30, 15:15, and 16:00 hours today but were driven away once the Iranian anti-aircraft artillery opened fire on them.

HONARDUST ON OIL AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN FIRMS

LD241906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran today announced that it is ready to hold discussions with all foreign oil companies whose agreements with Iran had been declared null and void concerning settlement of their claims.

Our correspondent has interviewed the deputy minister of petroleum in charge of international affairs on this issue as well as on the recent oil agreements between Iran and Algeria.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Today Iran announced that it has reached agreement concerning the problems and claims concerning three oil agreements with (?five) Italian, Spanish and Belgian companies which had been declared null and void. It has also announced to other oil companies that it is ready to solve its problems with them on the same basis. This was announced by Mr Honardust, deputy minister of petroleum in charge of international affairs, in a conference which was held with the participation of domestic and foreign reporters. He gives us some explanations concerning this.

[Honardust] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, in Dey 1958 [22 December 1979 to 20 January 1980] the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran passed a law according to which the minister of petroleum was authorized to form a committee to study all existing oil agreements and to declare null and void all those agreements which were contrary to the nationalization of Iranian oil industry in February-March 1949. A committee was formed and that committee declared 27 agreements null and void; 17 of those agreements were with U.S. companies, the rest being European or one of them was Asian [as heard]. At the end of last year we went to the consortium premises in London and informed the members of the consortium of the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. There we announced that under no circumstances will we give up the legitimate rights of our Islamic nation. At the same time, we are prepared to discuss and solve these agreements in accordance with Islamic justice.

[Question] With how many foreign companies have you recently reached agreement, which companies are these, what are the conditions upon which agreements have been reached and what methods will you adopt concerning other companies?

[Answer] On the whole, so far we have reached agreement with five foreign companies, all European. We have signed a final agreement with them. The special committee has confirmed these agreements. They were also approved by his excellency the prime minister. At the moment they are engaged in taking the crude oil specified in the agreements upon which solutions have been reached. These companies are: (Sirik, Imico and Ogoko) from Italy; as well as (Espanola) from Spain and (Tecrophon) from Belgium.

[Question] You announced that you only agree to the solutions to the special problems concerning those agreements which have been reached by the special committee. Please let us know who the members of this special committee are.

[Answer] There are representatives from the Supreme Judicial Council, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Central Bank as well as from the Ministry of Petroleum.

[Question] What do you recommend to the foreign oil companies whose agreements have been declared null and void?

[Answer] My recommendation to those companies is to follow the example of those companies which have reached agreement with us. They should be sure that the special committee is the speediest way for them to achieve any results. They should come and submit their claims to the special committee and they should be sure that we will deal with them in accordance with Islamic justice. Like these companies, they also can sign the necessary agreements in the fastest possible time. Here I announce that the special committee is the only authority which the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes to investigate the agreements which have been declared null and void.

[Question] Would you sell oil to these companies in any case?

[Answer] These companies, other than the U.S. ones, can come and sign contracts to buy crude oil from us just like all the other companies which have signed such contracts with us.

[Question] Mr Honardust, as the Iranian deputy minister of petroleum, you were with Mr Musavi, the prime minister, on his trip to Algeria. Can you tell us about oil agreements reached on this trip with Algeria?

[Answer] You do realize that oil agreements between Iran and Algeria are nothing new. In Algeria, we reached agreement on four issues and these agreements were signed by the prime ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Democratic Republic of Algeria. The first point on which we agreed was the issue of reviewing the present situation in the oil market. In this respect, we clearly announced that in the present situation the oil market is suffering from the 1.2-2-million-barrel per day production. As the surplus production this is obviously the result of the activities of the Saudi Arabian Government in the recent OPEC conference. This was precisely supported by Kuwait. Here, they opposed two factors: first, the programming within the 17.5-million-barrel OPEC production; second, in this grim oil market situation, they wanted to increase the differential or the rate for the superior quality of the North African oil compared with the Persian Gulf oil.

In that case, if the differential had been raised the oil market situation would have deteriorated even more. The point raised in the joint statement of the two countries clearly indicates that Saudi Arabia is precisely responsible for the breakdown of the recent OPEC conference and, in this respect, it was supported by Kuwait.

The second point we agreed upon was the formation of a technical and service company with the participation of both the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government and that of Algeria. You are informed that during the recent trip by Brother Maqhur, Libyan minister of petroleum, to Iran, Libya proposed the formation of a technical and service company by Iran and Libya. In Algeria, we discussed this with our Algerian brothers and we said that we agree with our Libyan brothers' proposal. If they want to participate in this company we will support and welcome them. This was welcomed and it was decided that consultants from both countries should study the technical side of the plan and submit their proposals to the petroleum ministers of Iran, Libya and Algeria in the near future.

The third point was sending Iranian advisers to Algeria. It was decided that Algerian brothers should inform us of the kind of expertise they need and we in turn will provide them with a list of our experts. Then, God willing, steps will be taken to send them.

The fourth point was cooperation in the gas industry. You are informed that Algeria has a long history of exporting gas, both natural and liquid. It was decided that a delegation from the Iranian national gas company should travel to Algeria and while familiarizing themselves with the experiences of the Algerian brothers, they should study the grounds for cooperation between the two countries in the gas industry and report to the ministers of both countries. God willing, we then will see what we can do.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Honardust] You are welcome. [end recording]